

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 6-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 6-10 are amended. The amendments to the claims introduce no new matter. Claims 2 and 3 are cancelled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiners Pan and Truong in the June 11, 2008 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The Office Action, in paragraph 4, rejects claim 1-3 and 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0184518 to Foster et al. (hereinafter "Foster") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,237,243 to Sutton et al. (hereinafter "Sutton"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

This Office Action substantially maintains the previous interpretation of the primary reference, Foster, set forth in previous Office Actions. Applicants continue to maintain previously asserted positions that (1) the Office Action unreasonably interprets Foster for what it can be considered to teach, or to have suggested, with respect to the subject matter of the pending claims; (2) Applicants' previous arguments in this regard are not fully addressed in the current Office Action; (3) the asserted combination of Foster and Sutton is unreasonable; (4) it is unclear how the Office Action actually proposes that the teaching of Foster can be modified by any teaching of Sutton; and (5) the Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case for obviousness of the subject matter of the pending claims over the applied references.

Notwithstanding the above assertions, and in an effort to advance prosecution, Applicants further amend the claims to varyingly recite, among other features, wherein, when

the instruction data instructs the second processing to be carried out later than the first processing, the encryption processor encrypts the second process description using a second public key corresponding to a private key of the second job processor, and further encrypts the first process description and the second process description encrypted by the second public key using a first public key corresponding to a private key of the first job processor. No permissible combination of Foster and Sutton can reasonably be considered to have suggested this combination of features.

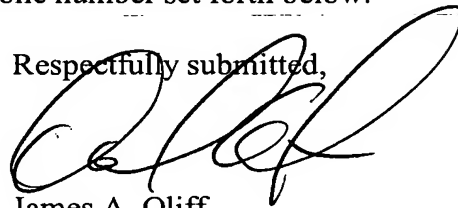
During the June 11 personal interview, Applicants representative expressed concern that over the course of prosecution of this application the claims had been routinely amended, and specifically were amended in the December 21, 2007 Amendment filed with a Request for Continued Examination. Applicant's representative noted for the Examiners that the current Office Action, to which this amendment responds, broadly paraphrases the claim language, and continues to appear to overly broadly apply the Foster and Sutton references for what they can reasonably be considered to have suggested with respect to a very detailed combination of features now recite in each of the pending independent claims. Examiners Pan and Truong noted Applicants representatives in this regard and indicated that careful review of the very detailed features recited in the pending claims would be undertaken in response to any formal filing. Applicant's appreciate this indication from the Examiners. As is noted above, and as was discussed during the June 11 personal interview, the claims are amended to recite, in specific detail, an encryption methodology which is not reasonably suggested by the combination of currently-applied references. The Examiners indicated they would carefully review the amended claim language and the applied references in light of those amendments. The Examiners further indicated that a further search may be required.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Foster in view of Sutton are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 6-10 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:DAT/cfr

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